

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00481 210904Z

22

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2072

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0481

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJ: CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON-
BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

REF: ANKARA 0440

1. AT COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING JANUARY 14, CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN VOICED CONCERN REGARDING CHRONIC DELAYS IN BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF SECRETARIAT'S ANNUAL BUDGETARY SUBMISSIONS. WITHOUT GOING INTO MECHANICS, SEC GEN PROPOSED THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ESTABLISH A FIXED CEILING FOR THE SECRETARIAT BUDGET EACH YEAR AT THE OPENING MEETING.

2. IN PRIVATE COMMUNICATION TO EMBASSY, FSO MORRIS CRAWFORD, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (ECONOMIC) HAS NOTED THAT SEC GEN'S PROPOSAL IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD, BUT OFFERS FOLLOWING INTERPRETATION REGARDING WHAT IS IN SEC GEN'S MIND AND WHAT HE IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH:

QUOTE: A. BY PLACING THE DECISION ON THE SIZE OF THE BUDGET ON THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL, I THINK, HOPES TO ESCAPE FROM THE OVERWHELMING PRESSURES PLACED ON HIM BY THE TURKISH COMMUNITY. HE SPENDS NO LESS
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00481 210904Z

THAN FIFTY PER CENT OF HIS TIME ON THE QUESTION OF WELFARE ETC. OF

THE TURKISH EMPLOYEES OF CENTO. HE IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO THE VIRULENT CRITICISM OF HIS ROLE IN THIS REGARD AND IS AWARE THAT THE HOSTILITY THAT IS BEING EXPRESSED COULD ENDANGER HIS FUTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MOREOVER, HE HAS A GENUINE SYMPATHY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE TURKISH STAFF AND THUS IS PERSONALLY SENSITIVE TO THE CRITISISM THAT HE FEELS IN NOT

JUSTIFIABLY PLACED AT HIS DOORSTEP.

B. IF HIS PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, THE DECISION ON THE SIZE OF THE BUDGET WOULD BE POLITICIZED MUCH MORE THAT IT IS AT PRESENT. THUS, THE SECREATRY GENERAL WILL BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO DEFEND HIMSELF FROM CHARGES THAT HE IS NOT PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE TURKISH STAFF.

C. THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSAL PRESENTS A NEW OPTION WHICH MAY NOT MAKE MUCH SENSE AS EFFECTIVE BUDGET MANAGEMENT BUT MIGHT WELL BE RATIONALIZED AS PROTECTIVE OF ANY TURKISH SECRETARY GENERAL. FOR THIS REASON I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE PROPOSAL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED, FOR THIS SECRETARY GENERAL AS WELL AS ANY FUTURE TURK IN HIS ROLE IS IN A HIGHLY VULNERABLE POSITION UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: WE ANTICIPATE THAT SECGEN WILL DISCUSS FOREGOING PROPOSAL DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND BAYULKEN'S PROBLEM, WE DO NOT THINK IT PRACTICAL FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN BUDGETARY QUESTIONS DURING THEIR RELATIVELY BRIEF ANNUAL MEETING. IF BAYULKEN RAISES THIS PROPOSAL IN WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MIGHT WISH EXPLORE COUNTER-PROPOSAL WHEREAS COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES IN ANKARA WOULD FIX ANNUAL BUDGET LEVEL NO LATER THAN JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR. I AM NOT ONLY RELUCTANT TO SEE ANY TIME DIVERTED TO THIS MATTER AT ANNUAL MINISTERS' MEETING, BUT I ALSO DO NOT WISH UNNECESSARILY TO ASSOCIATE SECRETARY OF STATE WITH THIS KIND OF PROBLEM AT ANY TIME.

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